

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** Claims 1-5 and 11-21, **amend** Claim 6, and **add** Claims 22-26 as indicated:

1-5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method for building process-based applications, in particular workflow-based applications, using a development environment for process-based applications, the process-based applications being based on at least one process model containing at least one process step, in particular at least one activity hosted by a process management system, in particular a workflow management system, where at least one of the process steps is to be implemented by at least one stored procedure, said method comprising the steps of:

accessing metadata for the at least one process step in the development environment;

extracting, from the accessed metadata, information needed to derive required definitional data for at least one procedure to be stored, wherein the information extracted from the accessed metadata includes a structure of the at least one process step, any individual steps that make up the at least one process step, and a linkage to components that implement the individual steps;

transforming the extracted information into definitional data for the at least one procedure to be stored; and

creating stored procedure definitions based on the definitional data.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of generating at least skeleton information for the at least one stored procedure in a database hosted by a database management system by using the stored procedure definitions.

8. (original) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of generating a frame of code for the at least one stored procedure.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of inserting the stored procedure definitions into a metadata store hosted by a database management system.

10. (original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the information needed to derive the required definitional data is at least signature information for each stored procedure contained in the metadata store, or at least topology information required to locate stored procedures contained in the metadata store hosted by the database management system.

11-21. (cancelled)

22. (new) A computer-implemented method for generating definitional data for stored procedures that implement activities, the method comprising:

accessing a first set of metadata that represents definitions of individual activities for process models that are used by a WorkFlow Management System (WFMS) and an associated Development Environment for Process-Based Applications (DEPBA);

generating, from the accessed first set of metadata, a second set of metadata needed by the WFMS to invoke associated stored procedures in the DEPBA;

extracting information needed to derive definitional data for the associated stored procedures that implement the individual activities in a format that is suitable for a transformation component, wherein the transformation component generates stored procedure definitions and transfers them to a DataBase Management System (DBMS), and wherein the DBMS stores the procedure definitions in a local metadata store;

transferring the extracted information to the transformation component;

generating, by the transformation component, procedure definitions based on the extracted information;

using the extracted information to define respective stored procedures by issuing respective Structured Query Language (SQL) Description Definition Language (DDL) statements;

inserting, by the DBMS, the respective stored procedures in a metadata store in the DBMS;

deploying a process-based application to the WFMS by using the inserted stored procedures in the metadata store in the DBMS; and

invoking the stored procedures in the DBMS by using currently executing workflows in the WFMS.

23. (new) A computer-implemented method for continuously retrieving changed information about all stored procedures within a network environment, the stored procedures being accessible from a given network node in the network environment, the method comprising:
checking, in a loop having a pre-determined time delay, whether a stored procedure has been added, modified or discarded;

in response to determining that the stored procedure has been added, modified or discarded, accessing metadata for the stored procedure within the network environment;

in response to determining that the metadata is required by a WorkFlow Management System (WFMS), reformatting the metadata into a Workflow Definition Language (FDL), wherein FDL is a component of International Business Machine's MQSeries;

transferring the reformatted metadata to a Development Environment for Process-Based Applications (DEPBA); and

using the reformatted metadata in the DEPBA to update available metadata in the network environment.

24. (new) The computer-implemented method of Claim 23, wherein steps described in Claim 23 are started automatically whenever a detection is made that a stored procedure is added, modified or discarded within the network environment.

25. (new) A system for generating definitional data for stored procedures that implement activities, the system comprising:

means for accessing a first set of metadata that represents definitions of individual activities for process models that are used by a WorkFlow Management System (WFMS) and an associated Development Environment for Process-Based Applications (DEPBA);

means for generating, from the accessed first set of metadata, a second set of metadata needed by the WFMS to invoke associated stored procedures in the DEPBA;

means for extracting information needed to derive definitional data for the associated stored procedures that implement the individual activities in a format that is suitable for a transformation component, wherein the transformation component generates stored procedure

definitions and transfers them to a DataBase Management System (DBMS), and wherein the DBMS stores the procedure definitions in a local metadata store;

means for transferring the extracted information to the transformation component;

means for generating, by the transformation component, procedure definitions based on the extracted information;

means for using the extracted information to define respective stored procedures by issuing respective Structured Query Language (SQL) Description Definition Language (DDL) statements;

means for inserting, by the DBMS, the respective stored procedures in a metadata store in the DBMS;

means for deploying a process-based application to the WFMS by using the inserted stored procedures in the metadata store in the DBMS; and

means for invoking the stored procedures in the DBMS by using currently executing workflows in the WFMS.

26. (new) A system for continuously retrieving changed information about all stored procedures within a network environment, the stored procedures being accessible from a given network node in the network environment, the method comprising:

means for checking, in a loop having a pre-determined time delay, whether a stored procedure has been added, modified or discarded;

means for, in response to determining that the stored procedure has been added, modified or discarded, accessing metadata for the stored procedure within the network environment;

means for, in response to determining that the metadata is required by a Workflow Management System (WFMS), reformatting the metadata into a Workflow Definition Language (FDL), wherein FDL is a component of International Business Machine's MQSeries;

means for transferring the reformatted metadata to a Development Environment for Process-Based Applications (DEPBA); and

means for using the reformatted metadata in the DEPBA to update available metadata in the network environment.